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VALLEY STAR

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LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Silverman Performs Holocaust Songs

BY IVY DAI
STAFF WRITER

To commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust scholar Jerry Silverman performed "The Undying Flame: Ballads and Songs of the Holocaust" Wednesday in Monarch Hall. Hillel at Valley and Pierce colleges coordinated to produce the show and the Jewish Federation Valley Alliance funded it.

Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, marks the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising in Poland, a three-month battle of Jewish resistance against Adolph Hitler's Gestapo.

"We need to commemorate the Holocaust so nothing like this ever happens again," said Rick Lupert, Hillel assistant director at Pierce and Valley colleges. "We live in a time when there's still people alive to share their experiences." Lupert wanted to look for unique and meaningful ways to tell the Holocaust story, and felt that music would speak to a broad audience.

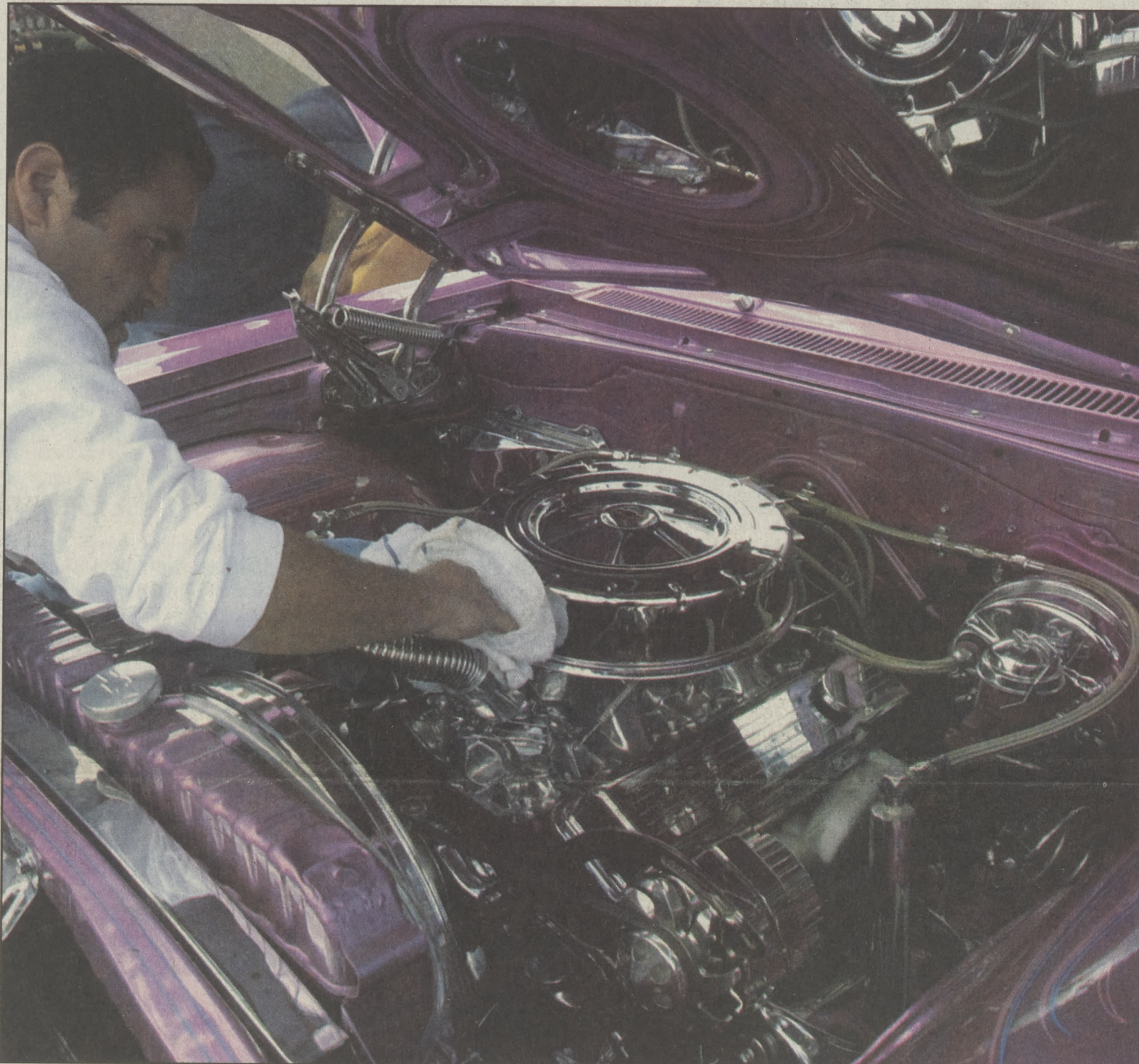
"Why do we choose to remember such a dark event?" Valley President Tyree Wieder said. "A lot of courage was shown by members of the Holocaust. They had exciting lives filled with art and music. We need to remember the past in order to have a better future and make a difference in today's time. The Holocaust impacts who we are today."

Silverman presented songs written during and after the Holocaust, playing each one on his acoustic guitar. The songs are from his book "The Undying Flame: Ballads and Songs of the Holocaust," which contains 110 songs in six languages. He began with a German song, his eyes intent, hollow and fearful, as a member of the Holocaust might have looked.

Songs such as "The Jewish Child" portrayed the distress of Jewish children in German schools with lyrics like, "Go away you rotten Jew boy/I bitterly cried in disgrace/As they threw stones in my face."

See 'SONGS' on page 6

A Perfect View



BENJAMIN FAVELA / VALLEY STAR

CLEAN AS A WHISTLE- Abel Perez adds some final touches to his 1965 Chevrolet Impala before it gets judged at the Lowrider Car Show at Parking Lot E Sunday. Perez's car won Best in Show.

Lowriders Take a Little Trip to Valley

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

It was everything but quiet at Valley College over the weekend. The Technique Car Club held a competition Sunday for their Lowrider division, and for the younger set there was a custom two-wheel bike competition of The Oldies Bike Club.

"There's about 20 car clubs out here today," said Eric Iniguez, ASU vice president-elect and president of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Azatlan (MEChA). "A lot of people came out today to support us."

"It was a really great opportunity to get out here and support our school, KVCN and MEChA," said Denise Mendez, president of the Broadcasting club and KCVM DJ. "All the DJs came out to help today."

The cars were painted, jacked up, carpeted, disco ball, chromed and polished. The hydraulically-lifted beds on the back of the trucks were showstoppers as they maneuvered through the parking lot showing off their agility.

"I've been showing my car about five years now," said Jessie Rojas of the 'Shot Callers' lowrider club in

Ventura. His entry was a 1962 Ford Thunderbird. "Sometimes I drive it on the weekends, but it's really for show."

Abel Perez from the Shot Callers, was the top winner of the day's event, capturing the Best in Show trophy for his 1965 purple Impala.

The Sheriff's department was in full force to make sure the show went on without any problems.

"This is the first car show in the two years we've been here and the organizers have done a great job," said Deputy Sheriff Randy Tunistra, head of campus security. "The only complaint we had was from a

few neighbors complaining about the loud music and we took care of it."

The first place winners in the bike show were 11-year-old twins, Michael and Gabrielle Gonzales. Gabrielle, who entered two shows and took trophies from both, finished his show bike two months ago after spending the last six months working with three welders to complete it. Her brother Michael has been showing his bike since 1996.

"I've won so many trophies," Michael said. "I had to throw some away because we ran out of room."

Brevard New ASU President

Less than two percent come to polls

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Student Union announced Thursday James Brevard class president for 2003-2004. Officials have announced the new executive board and will swear them in this Thursday at the ASU banquet.

Less than two percent of Valley College students represented their peers at the polls and elected ASU commissioner of fine arts James Brevard as president. His ticket partners Erick Iniguez and Alvaro "Lalo" Vasquez have also been elected to serve as vice president and treasurer, respectively. Others to be sworn in Thursday at the ASU awards banquet are new commissioner of student and social affairs Aeria T. Jackson and commissioner of political affairs Igor Kagan.

"Voter turn-out was very low this year," Vasquez said. "I would have liked to have seen more publicizing by the ASU. Last year about 500 students voted; now it's little more than 300."

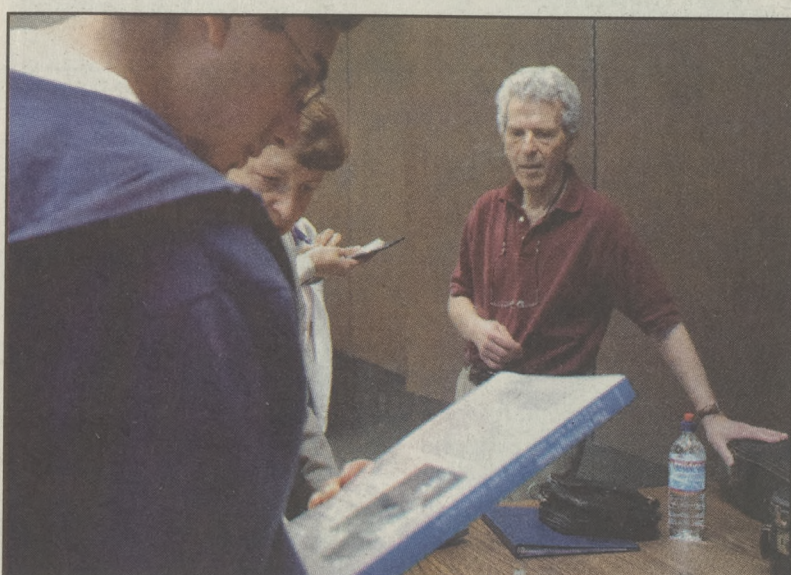
While Brevard took 58 percent of the votes, the turnout was unusually low. Brevard received 185 votes, Kenny Alvarado took 106 and 25 voted for Efrein Gonzalez. Iniguez, Jackson, Kagan and the Los Angeles Community College District's new student trustee Stacey McMullen ran unopposed. McMullen will represent the nine Los Angeles colleges among the board of trustees.

"I don't think the ASU members should have been running polls," Alvarado said. "James Brevard is a good guy and I hope he gets the job done, because without a doubt, this school needs help." Alvarado said he intends to stay at Valley and help the ASU because of most standing officers' imminent departure, though he doesn't plan to run for president again.

Alvarado said the ASU was highly pro-Brevard and suspects them of not publicizing the elections enough. A low voter turnout only stood to favor the ASU commissioner, according to Alvarado.

Lack of student participation is on all the new officers' minds

See 'RESULTS' on page 6



SAMANTHA KUPPIG / VALLEY STAR

HOLOCAUST - Holocaust scholar Jerry Silverman greets listeners at his concert to commemorate Yom Hashoah April 30.

Broadcasters Help Valley

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Broadcasting Club began its annual drive to collect canned goods, clothes and toys for the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission April 30.

The Rescue Mission is a subdivision of the Rescue Mission Alliance founded in 1972. It's a non-profit organization that works with other non-profit agencies in response to homelessness. Through its multiple facilities and locations, the mission is able to provide outreach programs, referrals and life-essential services to the homeless of San Fernando Valley.

"We're a wonderful support to the community," said Linda Smith, of the San Fernando Rescue Mission. "We even have churches helping us out to provide shelter 365 days a year for all the mothers and children that come through our doors."

All this would be impossible without the support of volunteers like the Broadcasting Club, whose assistance helps make a difference for the less fortunate. Club members are promoting the drive as a way to give back to a community that has given them so much.

"Last December for the first

See 'DRIVE' on page 6

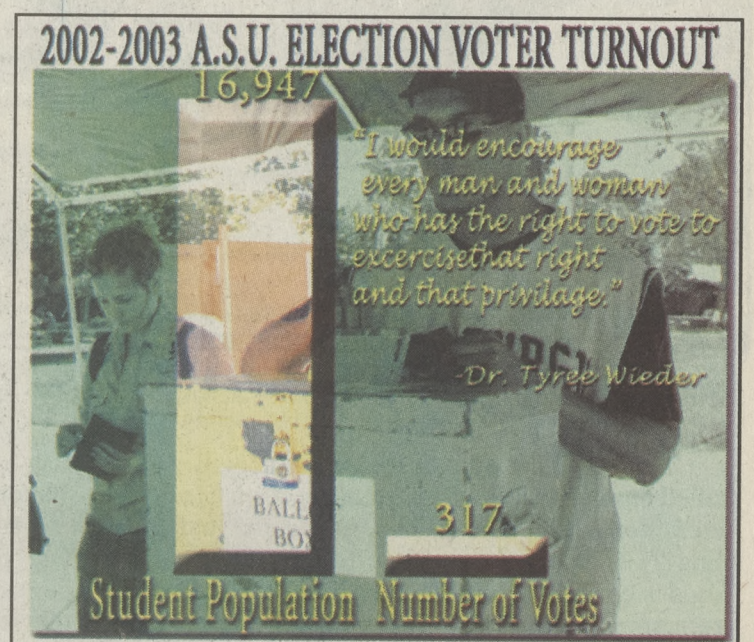


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STERLING ANDREWS

May Day March

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

While Valley College students prepared for Cinco de Mayo last week, they didn't pay much attention to International Workers' Day otherwise known as May Day. The day may not have meant much to students on campus but it's still of great importance, Chicano Studies professor Pete Lopez said.

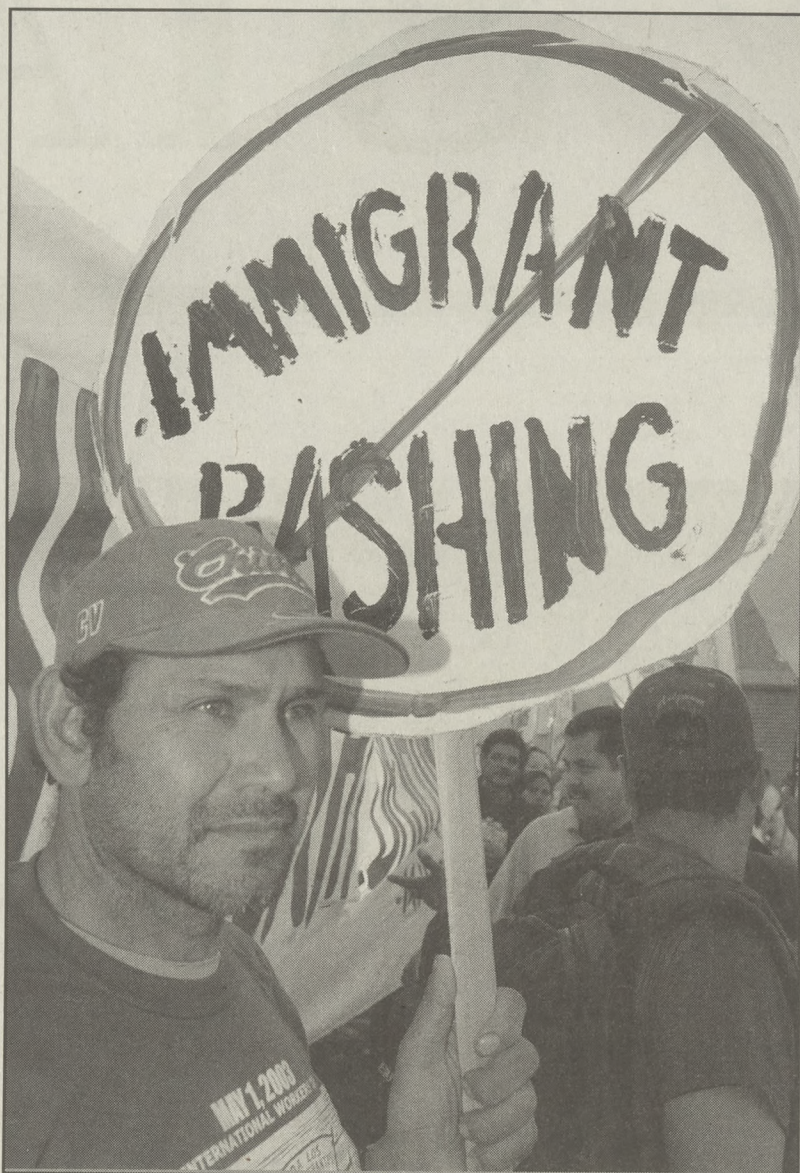
"The cycle of poverty continues and May Day is the time for the working class to protest against that cycle," Lopez said. "Here at Valley we like to focus on Cinco de Mayo, so May 1 often gets overlooked. But it's a very important day all over the world, especially among Chicanos and Mexicans."

Thousands of workers from all walks of life protested in Downtown Los Angeles Thursday for immigrant laborers' rights and against war, which many say allows lawmakers to continue to ignore immigration issues that affect California residents on a daily basis.

Laborers, students and working professionals marched through the streets to the governor's Los Angeles office to oppose what they call "immigrant bashing," which has caused the government to target thousands of foreign residents since Sept. 11. Many immigrants who pay taxes and have legal authorization to reside in the United States have been illegally detained or deported, according to Joann Lo, lead organizer at the Garment Worker Center.

"This year we're focusing on the legalization of illegal workers, the end to 'bashing' of immigrants' rights since 9-11, the war which has taken away from our economy and the rest of us who work hard for our country," Lo said.

A march is held in Downtown Los Angeles and other major cities annually to recognize Workers Day. The first May Day was held in 1890 in Chicago to commemorate a nationwide strike May 1, 1886.



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

MAY DAY- Day laborer Jesus Cervantez supported the May Day march that thousands attended in Downtown Los Angeles Thursday.

The protest drew larger groups this year than previously.

"It's nice to see average men come out here and get their voices heard on issues that affect them as well everyone else in this country," protester Michael Jammal said. "The work that most of these people do is what keeps this country so powerful. We all deserve to work in decent conditions with a standard of living."

High school students came out in the hundreds to support their parents and speak out against issues that continue to affect them in their pursuit to higher education.

"I've been here 12 years but I've never received legal docu-

mentation," Santa Monica High School student Lizbeth Antonio said. "I got accepted to UC Riverside this fall, but because of my status I don't qualify for financial aid. This happens all the time and it can't continue."

The majority of protesters were Latino and public speakers yelled chants in both English and Spanish.

"Adelante todos a marchar (everybody march)," yelled Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles. "This is a city that's made up of hard workers. We're all here today to celebrate the work that all of you have performed so tirelessly everyday."

ASU Elections Spark Controversy

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Last week's elections gave Valley College students new members for next year's Associated Student Union, but it also created tension for some. ASU members running the polls had to turn away those not able to present identification.

Presidential candidate Kenny Alvado said that many students he spoke to said they'd vote for him, but because they didn't have identification they couldn't.

"I didn't have my ID, so I had to go back to my locker to get it," student Ignacio Ferrera said. "They could have just looked up my name and social security number in the book."

Voters at the polls whether

federal, county, city or college, citizens must provide a current and valid photo ID or a current document like a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter, according to California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

When a student enrolls at Valley, administration recommends he or she gets a student ID card for textbook purchases at the student store and for campus elections. Valley will provide every student with a campus identification card for free and replace it if lost for \$10.

"I don't drive but I carry ID," said student Ermiias Ghebretsaie. Even though he

didn't vote in the ASU election, he's aware people need to show identification to vote.

Carrying identification will ensure voters can prove their identity in an election without coercion or intimidation by elected officials, according to the County of Records and Responsibilities in California.

The Los Angeles Police Department said only those who are on parole need to carry ID every day, but they did recommend that when you are out on the street you should have some way to identify yourself.

"Common sense says you should have your ID on you at all times," said Deputy Sheriff Randy Tunistra, head of campus security. "If you're driving you must carry identification."

Wild Land Fire Academy Takes Over Monarch Hall

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't a Dr. Ruth seminar in Monarch Hall Saturday morning. The grunts, moans and groans that passersby could hear from the parking lot were 80-100 high school seniors from several local campuses, male and female, going through what sounded like boot camp. Several uniformed training officers paced among the sweating, straining youths, demanding every last ounce of strength and energy they had left in them to continue this hour long workout.

As it turned out, they were

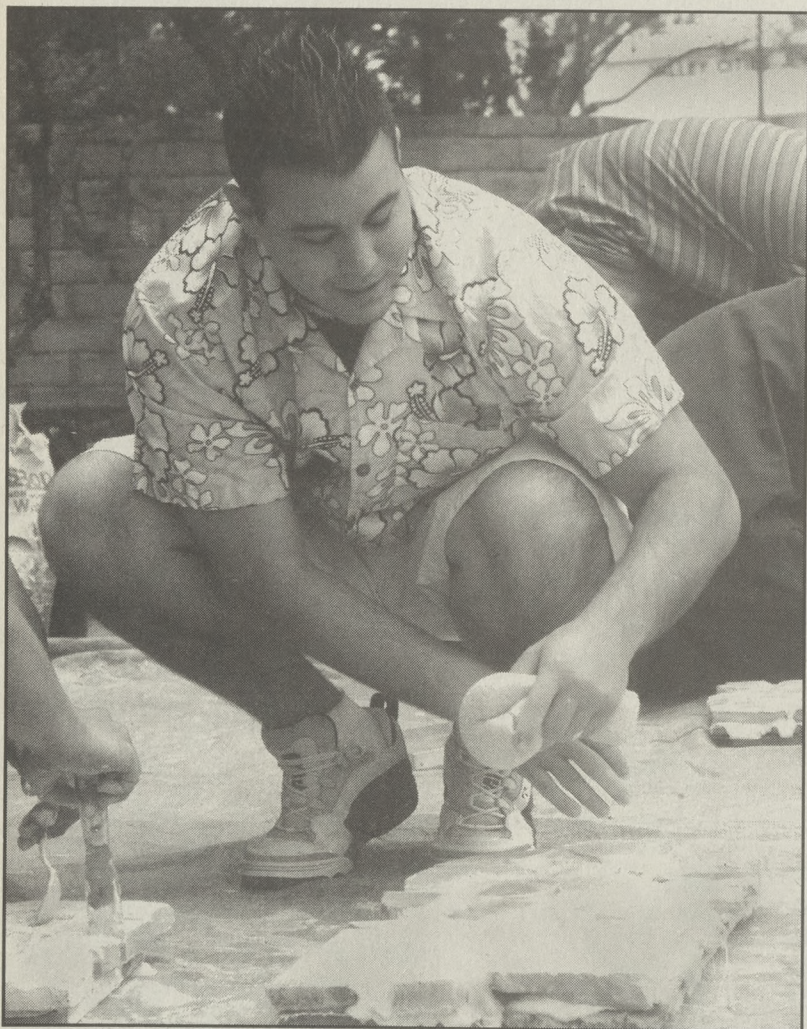
training with the U.S. Forest Service for the Wild Land Fire Academy, which runs programs to aid them in Forest Service job training and for college credits.

"This program allows these seniors to get the 32 basic fire requirements by the U.S. Forest Service," said Chief Jim Hall, forest training officer for the Angeles National Forest. "If these students will be 18 by the time we're hiring, they will be given priority because they have gone through this program. We take into consideration the certificates they've earned and how they did during the training we give them."

Even though the exercise looked tough, most students seemed to have a good time as the trainers barked orders for more pushups. If they didn't do it fast enough they did it again until they did it right. If they didn't stand still when directed to do so they were commanded to get down and do more pushups.

"They're working on their abs of steel today," said Jenny McCombs, an assistant to the program. "This is the fourth session out of five Saturdays they must complete. Next week they go to the training facility in San Fernando."

Burning Down the House



ALEX DASH/VALLEY STAR

FIRE SCIENCE- Nicholas Alabise prepares a slab of foundation for a demonstration of a test burn

Valley College Fire Science classes will participate in a controlled burn test on May 14 at Los Angeles County Fire Station 102 across from Valley on Burbank Boulevard. Students are busy assembling lasagna-style slabs layered with plywood, roofing paper, Wonder board, mortar, Palos Verdes stone and grout. The test is a precursor to a project involving the wooden bungalow walkways.

Students learn how to engineer a structure for fire safety by constructing a sample and, in the process, develop a greater understanding of building materials.

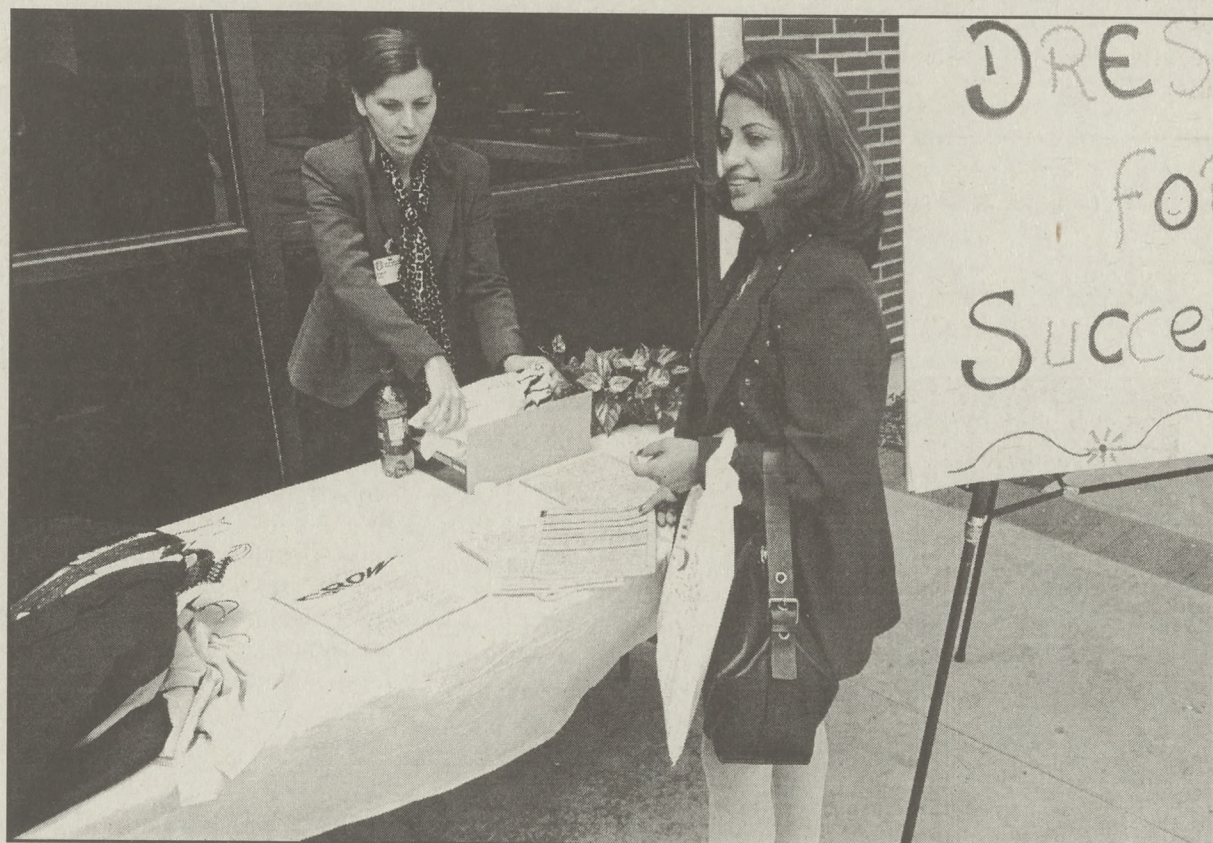
Fight Erupts During Class

BY RYAN YUDELL
STAFF WRITER

Two female students got into a fight Friday, according to campus security. The two students were in class in Business Journalism room 104, the report said.

The fight started when one student was working at a computer and the other approached her and asked why she was writing negative things about her in an e-mail, according to the report. Both students said they began arguing and then threw fists, the report said.

The class instructor immediately broke up the fight and escorted the two students to the campus Sheriff's office, the report said. Deputy Sheriff Cort Bishop told them of their rights to press charges but both parties declined to do so, according to the report. The report said Bishop saw no physical injuries and both women left campus peacefully.



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

JOB FAIR- Danielle Rizzo (left) disseminates pamphlets and information regarding successful wardrobe in the workplace.

BY JAMES DABBAGIAN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College offered several opportunities at a job fair recently, with representatives from several companies boasting information.

Many employers looking for potential employees took a table at the job fair.

"We invited more than 27 employers to this event," job fair representative Susan Mualcaba said. "It's not for just the students, it's for the community."

The students gathering

information could visit a table outside Monarch Hall that carried such items as a sport jacket, business suit and pamphlets about how to tie a tie. The table for Dress for Success stood apart from the rest — a class where people could learn what to wear for a job interview. Danielle Rizzo teaches this four-week class where people learn how to look convincing when speaking with potential employers.

"I teach the participants how to dress for success," Rizzo said. "And to make sure that they're dressed for the part so when they go and meet employ-

ers they look professional. Because I'm sure you've heard the expression 'first impression, last impression.'"

Employers at the job fair included well-known companies such as UPS, Rite-Aid Security and Universal Studios. Representatives from the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Metro Transit Authority also came to look for new members for their workforce. Each carried information about their company, including job applications and brochures.

OPINION

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Editorial Cartoon

DUE TO A DECLINE IN STUDENT VOTES, THE ASU HAS TO RESORT TO MORE PRIMITIVE WAYS OF DECIDING ELECTIONS



ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

Letter to the Editor

RE: Valley Star Editorial "History Bites the Dust," April 23, 2003

I suggest your editorial 'Bites the Dust.' Obviously, you care more for the lifeless antiquities of the Iraqi museum than for the lives and welfare of the Iraqi people.

Nowhere do you recognize that American troops successfully threw out a mad tyrant who murdered more than one million of his countrymen during over last 20 years or so.

Nowhere do you recognize that if it weren't for that supreme deed, the Iraqi people would still slaughtered his own people.

Nowhere do you hail the American and British soldiers' accomplishments in taking extraordinary pains to protect Iraqi's lives while battling the madman's minions.

Nowhere do you recognize that first and foremost obligation of American troops was to protect their own lives and the valuable records in the Oil Ministry to restart, as soon as feasible, the orderly production of the country's natural resource — oil.

Nowhere do you hail the achievement of both the Americans and the British in their historically amazing drive from Kuwait to Baghdad. Yes, it's regrettable that more couldn't have been done to protect the museum and its treasures. But your silence on these other matters highlights what at least on the surface appears to be your anti-American bias and your sympathy with those elements who deeply regret America's and Britain's triumph in Iraq.

Don Jonas, Valley Village

RE: Letter to the Editor, April 23, 2003

Cilo Hidalgo Jr. complained that the Associated Student Union didn't provide adequate transportation for disabled students to attend the March 28 Pershing Square student rally. We regret that Hidalgo or any student would feel excluded. We feel we made every effort to accommodate his needs, but after an exhaustive effort on the ASU and DSPS staff's part, we couldn't load Hidalgo's wheelchair on the bus. Then we suggested he return to the DSPS office to arrange alternate transportation. It was due to unforeseen circumstances, certainly not disrespect, that he couldn't use the ASU-provided transportation. In the future we'll continue to make every effort for students with special needs to participate in student activities.

Executive Council, Associated Student Union, Los Angeles Valley College

Campus View

Why didn't you vote in the student elections?

PHOTOS BY ALEX DASH



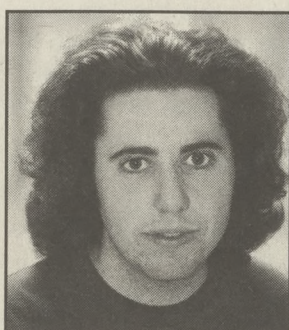
"I didn't vote in the elections because I didn't know about them."

Esmeralda Revolorio



"I didn't vote because I was not aware of the elections. They should have been publicized more."

Scott Howard



"I didn't vote because I don't care."

Nate McChristy



"I didn't know there were any elections."

Jocelyn Bonilla

STAFF EDITORIAL

Get Out and Vote

To vote or not to vote, that is the question. A play on words, but it raises many of the same thoughts. Shakespeare's soliloquy pondered life and death — doesn't the right to vote give us the opportunity to decide how our life will be? Without choice, we're constrained and lifeless.

Out of roughly 20,000 currently enrolled at Valley College, only 316 students voted in last week's Associated Student Union elections. That's less than half of the voters voted in last year's election. This makes it seem like students don't care about their school and the decisions that affect it. Perhaps the student body is content to be corpses traipsing down the halls to their next class.

Students say they care, but perhaps only when it affects them individually. They have the right to choose. They have the opportunity. But year after year the U.S. Census bureau releases information on our nation's vot-

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Less than half of citizens between age 20 and 30 are registered to vote, and only a third to half of those actually do so.

”

ers, and year after year, the patterns continue. Less than half of U.S. citizens between the ages of 20 and 30 are registered to vote, and only a third to half of those actually do so.

Valley College's statistics are more grim. Every student enrolled has the right to vote in ASU elections and only one and a half percent did, despite the fact the polls were open for two days. One third of Valley students are between 20 and 24, and nearly half of Valley's student population is between 20 and 30, according to the office of research and planning.

Is it apathy? The most com-

mon reason students gave for not voting was: "My vote doesn't count. I'm only one person." The single vote may not always be the deciding factor, but without it there would be no elections. Our democracy, albeit in our school or in our country, lends life through choice. The single voter grants us the right to live as we choose and gives fuel to our freedom.

Perhaps it has to do with young people's endless struggle to discover themselves and realize their opinions and beliefs count. For most, the 20s are a confusing time spent finding one's place in the world. This

confusion may weigh young people down so much that they're indifferent to their rights as citizens.

What's most interesting is that this is the key demographic in today's society. Advertising for foods, countless consumer products, and entertainment is geared toward people in their 20s. Decisions to create or discard a product — and all the jobs that come with its creation — hang by a thread on their approval. It's confusing that since so much rides on what they think that more of them don't vote.

We live in a country where our rights are protected. We can choose who represents us and stands up for our rights. But many of us don't. It's funny how we can turn our backs on our rights when so many people throughout the world in less fortunate countries have none. It provides a grim prospect for our nation's future.

AN OPINION

Free Music Kills the Corporate Beast

By RYAN YUDELL
STAFF WRITER

A federal judge in Los Angeles ruled in favor of online file swapping services Morpheus and Grokster April 25. The recording industry accused their parent company, Streamcast Networks, of piracy and copyright infringement. Judge Stephen Wilson said Streamcast — which provides the technology that Morpheus and Grokster use to give internet users the ability to exchange music and other media files — was "not significantly different from companies that sell home video recorders or copy machines, both of which can be and are used to infringe copyrights." This decision shields companies that provide decentralized file-swapping software from liability for their users' actions, but it clearly doesn't endorse theft of copy written materials.

Although the ruling marks a huge victory for swapping services, cause to celebrate was cut short last week when the Recording Industry Association of America won four separate settlements from college students accused of hosting or operating computer networks that allegedly offered thousands of songs for illegal downloading. The settlements, which ranged from \$15,000 to \$17,000 per student and totaled \$59,500. This represents a small but symbolic victory for the RIAA's new push to blame music

pirates for plummeting record sales.

The music industry has spent millions of dollars fighting lawsuits, lobbying legislatures, and creating defensive technology but has failed on the most obvious of fronts — embracing new technology, developing long-term artistic offerings and bringing their products to market at a more reasonable price.

Since the birth of the internet, users have shared files. The concept of radio delivering music from one source to multiple destinations predates the first record label. Consumers have been copying records, songs from the radio and tapes for years, so why was the industry taken by surprise when consumers simply embraced modern technology to do what they had already been doing?

The industry has failed to keep up with the most important thing in their business — trends. They saw the wave and let it pass thinking that the same old formulas that made them millions would prevail. In their arrogance they actually believed that people would continue buying \$20 albums rather than buy blank discs for under a dollar a pop and download albums for free.

The labels had their opportunity to follow the trend. Napster, a pioneering file swapping service, which had been previously felled by the RIAA tried to strike a deal with the industry using a pay-for-use model.

Having had achieved web-wide fame and a user base into the hundreds of thousands Napster would have made a perfect transition from the brick and mortar to the click and buy retail arena. Unfortunately prideful label execs, conflicting interests and time wasting made the Napster name and service useless in the end.

The sum is the industry has not been the most receptive and responsive to change which has left thousands of net users, particularly college students, to take advantage of the vacuum of ambition and intelligence left by the music industry on the net.

With losses into the millions versus last week's \$59,500 it is safe to say the music industry has won this battle but is desperately losing the war. Had the industry been more in tune with the needs of its consumers in the first place they wouldn't have to sue its disgruntled former customers now. The students file swappers forced to pay the \$59,500 aren't criminals; they are creative and intelligent, not one of them was making a penny off of the music that they shared. The music industry should be hiring guys like these to make their products and services better. What does nailing the little guy with a fine prove anyway? That the music industry is hurting and unwilling to change making its pleas against piracy sound like nothing more than a broken record.

A Sign of the Times

By JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Businesses come and go all the time. In two years, American companies lost more than \$300 billion. That's enough cold hard cash to build a school in almost every neighborhood. That's enough money to house and feed the homeless across our country for the next year or two.

Markets fluctuate. World trade, import, export and speculation is how money moves around. It seeks the path of least resistance, but our national deficit is still more than \$6 trillion. How can we afford to keep bailing out every country that knocks at our door to borrow a few bucks?

The almost \$21 billion education budget cut is raping students of their legal right to a fair and equal public education. Unemployment will most likely reach new heights if tuition is raised as government officials have suggested, because it will force many students to drop out and seek work instead.

The White House asked Congress for nearly \$90 billion to pay for the war with Iraq, with an estimated additional \$100 billion more to rebuild the country now that we've shredded it with our precise and extremely expensive missiles and manpower. Congress may have developed a sense of humor and offered up the name 'Shock and Awe' when they realized the reaction the cost of this war would cause.

It seems the U.S. government can find or create a huge budget for military actions and maintain access to a seemingly endless flow of money to bribe other countries for use of their territory. The money we'll spend on this effort could take a huge dent out of our problems in America.

Yes, the government continually steals from Peter to pay Paul when it comes to war. So why not use these same principles to make a plan that will ensure healthcare, welfare and employment for our own people or rescue companies that are succumbing to bankruptcy and failure?

In this financial ruin, we find ourselves heading for, we have become jaded too. We hardly flinch when we hear about hospitals closing down. We keep hearing there's a shortage of nurses, but

where are they supposed to find work? "Company re-structuring" has become the politically correct way of laying off thousands of employees, and now all we do is take the pink slip, stick it in our pocket and head for the soup line.

We may never refer to this period as the Great Depression, but as each headline unfolds predicting failures and cuts, it certainly feels like we are visiting that same downward spiral.

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UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES

California State University, Northridge

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays in Career/Transfer Center

University of Redlands

10 a.m. to noon May 7th

MUSIC

Foothill Trio: Viola, Clarinet and Piano, 11:30 a.m. May 15, Music Recital Hall

Valley Symphony Orchestra

Robert Chauls, Conductor
Charles Fierro, Piano
8 p.m. May 10, Mainstage Theatre. Admission charge

OTHER

Planetarium Show: The Dinosaur Chronicles, 8 p.m. May 9, Planetarium. Admission Charge

Austin Conover's 90th Birthday Party, 2:30 to 4 p.m. May 9, Campus Center Patio. RSVP to (818) 947-2619.

Students in over their Heads with classes

By CHRISTINA GRATE AND SYLVIA GRATE
STAFF WRITERS

Students taking too many units each semester not only find it hard to keep up with all their classes, by also have problems dropping classes. They can get overwhelmed with all their classes midway through the semester and, as a result, start skipping or dropping classes.

If they don't pay attention to the drop-date deadlines or don't drop the class until the last minute, they'll receive a withdrawal (W).

"If you have one or two Ws in your entire career, it doesn't matter at all," said Ivna Gusmao, Valley College counselor. "But if you have lots of Ws, you might get into progress probation."

There are two problems that arise when receiving Ws. If you get into progress probation, you are restricted from taking classes for a year. And, universities don't like to see them on your record, because your transcripts are a reflection of your tenacity and hard work in school.

"The W is there for the really good student, if you actually get over your head or you're not able to understand that particular subject at that

time," Gusmao said. "It's to be used cautiously."

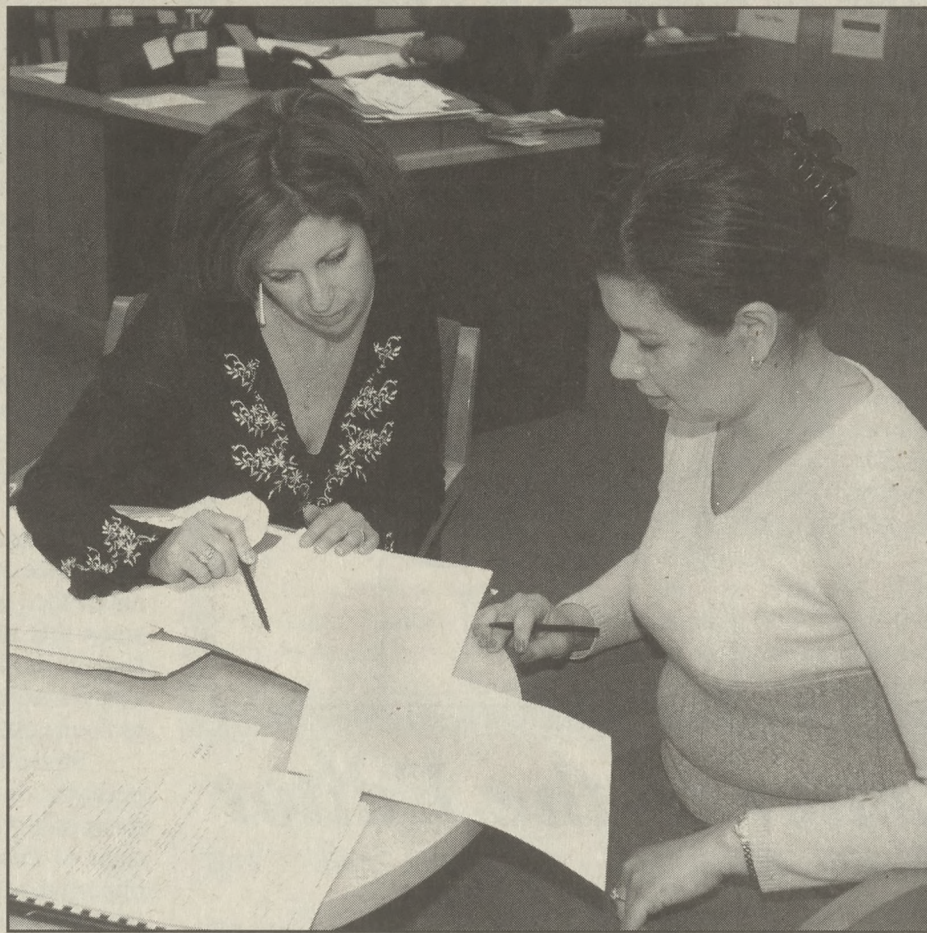
Credit/no credit is also a confusing policy for some students. It's not recommended because once a student petitions for credit/no credit, they can't change their mind. Even if an "A" is earned, it won't be calculated toward your grade point average.

"When I first started coming to Valley, I assumed the professors would drop a student from their class," said Leslie Maldonado. "But that wasn't how it worked out, so now I have to take the class again."

When a student doesn't drop a class properly they'll receive an incomplete or fail. Failure to attend class or a verbal agreement with a teacher doesn't make the drop official.

The correct way of dropping a class is to go to the administration office and drop the class, or drop it by phone or online. In case of a computer error, write down the confirmation number. It's your only proof of the drop.

"Many students come back saying they have an incomplete or fail," said Gusmao. "An incomplete or fail given by computer error can not be changed unless you have the confirmation number."



JESUS CARREÑO/VALLEY STAR

COUNSELING- Counselor Joyce Romero (left) and student Linda Ruaz (right) work together to complete school paperwork.



Parachute Express Performs at Trade Tech

Stephen Michael Schwartz (left), Janice Hubbard (center) and Donny Becker (right) of Parachute Express performed music for children of all ages at Trade Tech College Saturday. The band's one hour set included songs about love, friendship, an animal guessing game and an homage to Fred Rogers, of "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood." Together since 1984, Parachute Express has performed on Nickelodeon and is currently touring the United States. Their music can be heard weekdays at 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. on The Learning Channel's popular children's show "Jay Jay the Jet Plane."

PHOTO AND TEXT BY BENJAMIN FAVELA

Calculating English, Speaking Math

The first in a two-part series on college placement exams.

By JACKIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

Twenty-five percent of the world's population speaks English. More than 700 million people speak English as a second language. More than half of the world's technical and scientific periodicals are in English and 80 percent of the world's electronic information is stored in English, according to GoUK.com and Framtak.com.

Many students think by the time they get to college their English is good enough to get by. They know the alphabet, can read a complete sentence and communicate well with others. But when it comes to the college placement test, some students find it difficult and are shocked when they don't place into college-level English.

"We don't need it later," said student Joanna Jovel, a Sociology major who thinks it's only necessary if you're an English major.

"It's not like we're sitting here making this stuff up," said English Department Chairman Valley Alfred Zucker. "Employers and society are becoming more complex. At the least it's necessary to have the correct proficiency of English to function in society, a bachelor's degree is valued as a high school diploma 40 years ago."

The English section in the college placement test contains problems from basic skills to college honor level. "The placement test is design to help students to understand what's being presented to them in class," Zucker said.

The placement tests didn't always exist, but since they started they've had a 50 percent success rate among students. "Research is done to make sure the test is correct," Zucker said. There are expectations and procedures when placement errors take place. Provisions such as having a teacher's recommendation to move a student onto high English level class, according to Zucker.

"I don't like English," said student Michelle Galvez. "I think the math placements are ridiculous too. I'm an accounting major so I need math, but for other students it's wrong to make them take these classes." Galvez placed in English 101 but finds it boring because she has to write essays every week.

Zucker said students shouldn't be discouraged if they place in English 21 or 28 because they're only held back for one semester at the worst. The course grades are not transferable.

Although Germanic languages tend to be harder to learn because they're not consistent and there are so many exceptions, Zucker said. "It establishes a practice to build your own self esteem. School can be a wonderful experience. I encourage students to have a good attitude for learning and to find a sense of joy."

All We Need is a Little More Cowbell

By BEN JAURON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On April 8, 2000, two icons of my life met at a crossroads. Then they collided in a horrific crash, sending body parts flying and causing the streets of my mind to run red with mixed emotions.

One was Saturday Night Live, the other was the Blue Öyster Cult.

I've never been an incredible fan of either, but when the two joined forces to create a rampaging beast that attacks me regularly when I listen to my favorite classic rock stations, both transcended their entertainment media.

Everyone who knows what rock 'n roll is knows BÖC's song, Don't Fear the Reaper. It comforts the hell raiser and

manic depressive alike. And, anyone who's watched a rerun of SNL on Comedy Central knows Will Ferrel. I have no doubt that, in 20 years, we'll look back and see that he's the most successful comic actor that show has ever produced - bigger than Chevy Chase, Bill Murray or Eddie Murphy.

I would have been satisfied if Lorne Michaels had left it at that.

But Christopher Walken needed more cowbell.

I'll run it down for those of you who don't know. In the skit, host Chris Walken played record producer Bruce Dickinson. Blue Öyster Cult was the band for whom he was mixing a record. Cast members played the band (hell, I don't know their names, who knows how many famous musicians have done a tour of duty with BÖC). Ferrel played

Gene Frenkle, BÖC's percussionist... or in layman's terms, the cowbell player.

The band plays, but there's no satisfying Walken — the cowbell that Ferrel chimes just isn't prominent enough in the recording. "Guys, guys...in order for this to work, I need more cowbell," Walken says repeatedly.

This agitates the band members who turn on each other, but eventually they produce the song exactly the way Walken wants it - its success is guaranteed.

I laughed at the skit and then went on with my humdrum life. I don't know long it took before I heard "Don't Fear the Reaper" again, but the song changed. Now, instead of a song that, for the few minutes it ran, expunged mankind's darkest fear, my mind's eye saw it as a soundtrack for watching Will Ferrel's chubby tissue-colored

belly flopping to the beat.

As Romeo and Juliet will be together for eternity, so will the gut and the stone-faced Walken, demanding more. But what dwarfs everything else is the cowbell. I must have heard that song 10,000 times before I saw that skit and I never noticed that cowbell. I must have heard it 10,000 times since, and now it's all I hear.

But don't take this as complaining. The rampaging beast that the aforementioned collision and flying body parts created has become a good friend of mine. Now, when I sit motionless on the northbound 170 freeway many evenings and hear the Cult play Reaper, it affects me in a much more lighthearted and positive way.

And it's all thanks to Chris Walken needing more cowbell.

Golf as a Way of Life: SLICE OF LIFE BY JACQUI BROWN



The way to my husband's heart is not good food, good music or sex, it's the almighty 18 holes and a stiff shaft of the Big Bertha in his hand.

I've never seen my husband so happy as when the rain began to pelt down last weekend. He stood in the doorway looking outside as more storm clouds gathered and laughed out loud while rubbing his elbow. I'm thought he must be thankful his new car is under the carport and not suffering the wrath of this storm like mine.

"What's so funny?" I ask him.

"It's raining," he chuckled.

"And?" I waited for him to make

sense of what he was doing.

He stepped back inside and the look of satisfaction on his face almost made me laugh. "No golf," he said with the same smug look, like he didn't really care about playing the game anymore, which makes me wonder again why he's feeling so happy about this storm.

"I know... besides you have to wait for your elbow to heal," I said, wondering where he was going with this.

"Yeah, but no one gets to golf. It's raining too hard," he said as he turned and went into the den. The next thing I know, the television's on and he's settling in to watch one of the many tournaments on the golf channel. Now I'm starting to get the picture.

"So you're happy no one gets to go out there and play?" I said.

"Anybody who wants to play in this is nuts," he said.

"So this makes you happy, since you can't play? What about when it clears up, will you still be this happy?"

I wait for him to answer, but he just turns up the sound so he can't hear me.

You have to understand something about my husband. Golf is a way of life for him. What Tai Chi is to some, what yoga is for others, golf is how he relaxes and escapes the demands of his business and us. If he doesn't have time to play everyday, he will at least, for an hour or two, go hit balls at the driving range. Any excuse to feel that club in his hand.

For the past few weeks, he hasn't been able to swing a club because he has a bone spur on the joint in his elbow and it's just about killing him. It's

apparently so painful he even had to resort to brushing his teeth using his left hand, which is a sight to behold. It's like a comedy of errors watching him try to maneuver the toothbrush through what's normally an easy task- but doing it with the other hand, it's funny as hell to watch.

The doctor advised him not to practice, not even for a moment. Not one swing of the club. He's worried that his game will suffer, that his handicap of three might suddenly rise without his consistent practice and his big golf trip is coming up next week.

"So when is your next therapy session?" I ask trying to draw his attention back from the blaring television.

"I'm going every day this week," he said, as he set his elbow back on top of the ice pack.

"Everyday? That seems a little

excessive," I said, as I wonder how much will be covered by our 'we don't care, America' health insurance plan.

"I don't care. I'll do whatever it takes to be ready for this trip," he said.

"Well I hope it works. I'd hate to see you not be able to play," I respond.

"I'm going regardless of whether I can play or not," he said. "I want to see this course. I'll ride around in the cart if I have to." I can see by the look on his face that it will just about break his heart if he can't play.

So I leave him alone, with his ice pack and golf show. And I say a little prayer that his arm feels better and that he will be able to join his golf buddies, because if this therapy doesn't work I'll have to live through the three or four days of sulking if he can't play. If there really is a God, I beg you for healing.

Quartet Blows Up Valley



Michael Julian, Valley music professor, blows away at his trombone with the LAVC Jazz Band backing him.

Buzz Maddox and Pattie Lee, belt out a swinging rendition of Louis Prima's "Jump, Jive and Wail." The LAVC Jazz Band was directed by Dr. Woody James as part of the on-going campus concert series.

Photos and text by Salvador Aguilar



Cousins Clean Up Valley

BY SUSAN MALTBY AND
SAMANTHA KUPPIG
STAFF WRITERS

Joe Luna Carter and Pete James, two members of Valley College's custodial staff, are hardworking cousins and experienced at maintenance work.

"I'm a total Valley person," Pete said. "I love this school."

Pete and Joe worked weekends in Pete's father's company when they were kids. Leo, the elder James, recently retired after serving the district for 16 years. They take pride in doing the very best job they can on campus. It's their priority to keep the classrooms clean, but they do much more.

"I feel like I can do more for the school, more than just my job as a custodian," Pete said. "I'm here to support and encourage the students. Maybe

I can help them. I have a little wisdom."

Pete's worked at Valley for 10 years and Joe chose to pursue a career with his cousin three years ago. Joe worked hard as a volunteer to earn an entry-level position the following year, commuting from the high desert every day. Valley then promoted Joe to his current position as Maintenance Department Custodian.

"I'm very thankful to my cousin Pete," Joe said. "And Charles Long, the wonderful man who hired me on."

Pete and Joe share a large extended family. Born in Mobile, Ala., Joe's seven brothers and two sisters lost their mother to kidney failure when she was 40 years old. The family was angry at the hospital and had a hard time accepting her death.

"Forgiveness is important," Joe said. "If you don't forgive, you destroy yourself."

Joe, 41, is single, has raised three children and

is a grandfather of two. He's 5'7" with a medium frame and very muscular. The hard work and heavy lifting of his current job is what keeps him in shape today. He had career goals toward law enforcement and worked in security for several years, but he said he didn't change his mind because of fear.

"You didn't have to be a cop to get shot in the street where I grew up," Joe said. "In school, I knew the Crips and Bloods. When they were around I said, 'I'm goin' to the band room.'"

Joe is an accomplished musician and earned a full music scholarship after graduating Dominguez High School in 1980. But he studied electronics instead, hoping to improve music technology. When he isn't working, he can be found composing jazz music at home on his keyboard, one of the many instruments he plays. He has an extensive album collection of various artists.

"I collect the old vinyl George Benson, Doobie

Brothers, Eagles, anything."

Pete was athletic when he was young, and still has the build. Both Pete and his father played baseball.

"The one thing that I can always say about Pete is he always has a smile on his face," Pete's best friend and co-worker Hector Salazar said. "He's a very happy guy and a great to work with."

Pete and Joe's spiritual background is a big part of their lives today. They both consider themselves blessed to have the opportunity to work at Valley. The job has allowed Joe to purchase a house, one of his life's goals. Home ownership is one of his proudest accomplishments.

"I believe in a higher power," Joe said. "I'm thankful for the many blessing I have today. I try to pray even when times are good, especially when times are good."

Editor's Note: Some factual errors were reported in initial printing of this story April 23. The story is being re-run to clarify these mistakes.



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'Drive'

continued from page 1

"Last December for the first drive, we had a big turnout," said Tony Valdez, station manager for KVCN, the student radio station. "We feel that this is something we should be doing all the time, not just Christmas. Especially because of the effect it has on people."

The drive received an over-

whelming response last year from students and faculty. Although it got off to a late start this year, the Broadcasting Club is looking forward to another success.

"We already have many items including two trash bags full of clothing," Valdez said.

"I enjoy supporting drives like this," student Danitza Perez said. "It makes me feel good that I am able to provide for someone else in need, especially during times like these."

The drive will continue until the end of the semester. Those interested

in donating are urged to bring non-perishable canned foods or clothes and toys in mint condition to the Humanities Building room 112 or meet club members outside Monarch Hall on club day every other Wednesday. For questions, contact Valdez at (818) 947-2305, or the rescue mission at (818) 785-4476.

'Songs'

continued from page 1

High-spirited tunes such as the "Peatbox Soldiers," and "The Buchenwald Song" elicited listeners' surprise. "Venga Jaleo" told of the battle fought on a Spanish valley by the American Lincoln brigade.

Silverman played a scratchy original recording of "Westerbork Serenade," a 40's style pop ballad about a concentration camp love affair. He stopped in between songs to give a short history and context of each song.

Silverman, 72, is author of

'Results'

continued from page 1

but they're not discouraged. Brevard said he wants to use the campus as a venue for the community. He hopes that will get students to care more about their school.

"For every group of students who don't care about the school, there will always be a handful of us who do want to

200 books on music and performs the fruits of his nine-year study on music of the Holocaust at universities nationwide.

"These are songs of despair, hope, loss and resistance," said Silverman. Though not a Holocaust survivor, Silverman chose to study the Holocaust because the music holds importance and meaning.

Yom Hashoah is determined by the Hebrew lunar calendar and falls on a different day each year, one week before Israeli Independence Day. This year it was April 29th.

make a difference," Brevard said. "That handful of students always seems to make themselves seen and heard, and not just at Valley."

The ASU's executive board members have been successful at grabbing universities' attention as well. Nearly every member of this year's executive board has been accepted to the University of California campus of their choice.

Last Thursday ASU parliamentarian and student activist Jessica Salazar was accepted to UC Berkeley. Three others were accepted to UCLA.

"Grades do follow you

everywhere you go," Brevard said. "But it's really about being involved. Once the universities see that you actually care about the community, that's what really gets you in the door."

lavalleystar.com

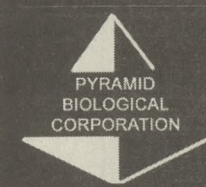
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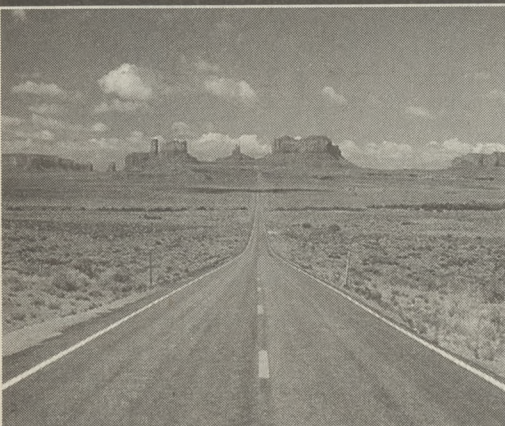
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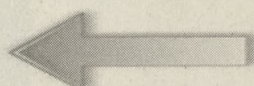
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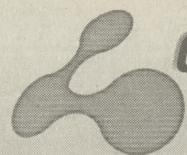
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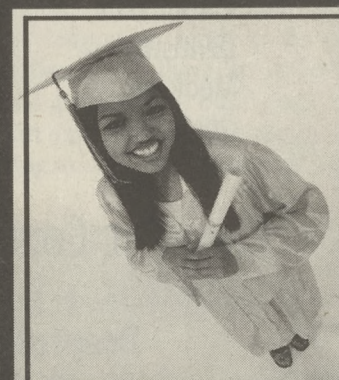
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SPORTS

7

Baseball Program Searching for Answers



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

END OF THE SEASON - Having never dug out from their 0-11 slump, the Monarchs closed out the season on a sour note.

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
STAFF WRITER

The baseball program is not sailing in friendly waters. After consecutive losing seasons, the team's in desperate need to turn things around.

"The fact is that nobody is happy, coach's are not happy and neither are we," Valley College athletic director Chuck Ferrero said. The team suffered while struggling to be competitive, winning only two games

this season and six in the past two years and leaving some doubt on whether they can bounce back next year.

Led by Head Coach Chris Johnson, the Monarchs got off to a disappointing 0-11 start and were unable bounce back.

"We're going to give it a go for another year and see if we can get things turned around," Ferrero said. He agrees winning is the priority here at Valley. He fully supports the coaching staff and predicts

much improvement next season.

The baseball program has continued to produce solid players. This season Anthony Chevrier batted .360 and hopes to transfer to Chico State. Everyone agrees winning is important, but coach Johnson has also been able to develop players and prepare them for the next level, which is important in any program.

"It's all a priority here, moving players on to four year

schools, and being representative in the win column," Ferrero said.

Although it has been a tough two years winning just six games, no changes will be made this year. However, the coaching staff has its work cut out for them next year, eight sophomores are gone, including starting pitcher Ryan Rycroft, starting catcher Brian Levinson, relief pitcher Alfredo Avila and starting first baseman Anthony Chevrier. On the bright side, the

team returns 20 freshmen all experienced and hopefully ready to lead the team to a winning season.

In the mean time the off-season will provide a chance to rebuild and restructure. But the last two seasons are not forgotten.

"Where were at right now is not where we want to be," Ferrero said. "It's up to them to turn things around."



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

BATTER UP - Monarch's third baseman Mike Seiser seizes another hit.

Freshman Ball Player Optimistic About Next Season

BY ALEJANDRO GUZMAN
STAFF WRITER

Monarch's third baseman Mike Seiser is a team leader with all the hustle expected from a dedicated baseball player. The Granada Hills native is a newcomer to the Monarch team.

The 20-year-old player has enjoyed playing ball for 15 years, and he continues to put all of his effort into improving his game. When he's not on the baseball field he's working out, trying to increase his strength. Disappointed with this year's season, Seiser strongly believes that the young team can improve and do a lot better.

"We just couldn't find the team chemistry we needed this year," Seiser said. The team lacked effort this year,

according to Seiser, and that's not his style of playing.

Although he plans on taking his baseball career to the next level, the freshman is also focused on majoring in kinesiology. He plans on transferring over to Cal State Northridge.

Besides managing a full-time school schedule, Seiser maintained a part-time job during the season that added difficulty to his already demanding schedule.

This summer Seiser plans on playing weekend baseball with the Pacific Coast baseball league, a traveling team that will compete in Las Vegas in July.

Inspired by his all-time favorite player Pete Rose, Seiser understands that to succeed an athlete must always hustle, give it 100 percent, and always make room for improvement.

Swimmers Dive Hard

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College swim team recently placed second in the in the Southern California Conference finals, sending Skylar Lennox and Natalie Kleinman to State Finals for diving and swimming. They competed Thursday and Friday at Diablo Valley College.

"This was a lot of fun," Lennox said. "I joined the dive team late in the season and had to learn a lot of new techniques,

but it was worth it. I've got the diving bug."

Only eight students are eligible to compete in the statewide event, where Lennox placed 12th in the one-meter dive and 10th in three-meter.

Kleinman placed 15th in the 200-meter individual medley for swimming.

"Considering we didn't have a dive team this year, they've all made a lot of progress," former dive coach Gary Honjio said. "Gail Tankis, the new coach and the girls have all done a great job."

JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

An Opinion

The NCAA is having trouble keeping their athletes satisfied. The Collegiate Athletes Coalition (CAC) founded by former UCLA football player Ramogi Huma is recruiting athletes from around the nation to improve the life of student athletes. However, their demands may interfere with amateur status of NCAA athletes.

The CAC was formed in January of 2001, and has since targeted major football and basketball programs for support. Their goals are health insurance coverage for athletes outside the academic year, protection of scholarships in case of injury, \$2,000 a year stipend and an increase of the \$10,000 life insurance policy.

Here's the dilemma the NCAA has to deal with. Football and basketball generate about \$3.5 billion a year, but that money supports everything from scholarships and stipends to the not-so-profitable sports programs.

"Universities rely so heavily on football and basketball to support other programs just to stay afloat, so I don't see how there could be enough money to pay athletes," Pac-10 representative Dave Hirsh said.

Most major universities have other sports programs like soccer, volleyball, softball, baseball, gymnastics, swimming, and track-and-field, but these programs don't generate the publicity of "Bowl games" and "March Madness." The money has to be distributed to give other athletes scholarships and an opportunity to compete at higher level even if it's less profitable to the institution.

Assuming the money was available, it would be a mistake to pay college athletes. Collegiate athletics is about pride and winning for the student body and staff. Paying players would introduce professionalism to an amateur world, especially now in an era of high priced egotistical professional athletes we don't need college sports to be corrupted.

"I've yet to find a college president who believes there should be a stipend or a salary to pay athletes to participate in sports," said NCAA spokesman Wally Renfro. "Some would like to enhance current scholarship to cover full cost of attendance, but most schools are losing money on these sports. For 300 schools in Division I to all be able to compete, you don't get to accomplish what the richest programs can afford to do." To restructure the current scholarship would be great, but payment would jeopardize the integrity of the NCAA.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA

The San Antonio Spurs tripped up the defending champion Lakers 87-82, led by MVP Tim Duncan and reserve guard Manu Ginobili. Kobe Bryant had a game high 37 points, and Shaquille O'Neal added 24 points and 21 rebounds.

Once, twice, maybe three times, Tim Duncan won his second consecutive MVP award this season. Duncan became the first person to win two in row since Michael Jordan did it in 1991 and 1992.

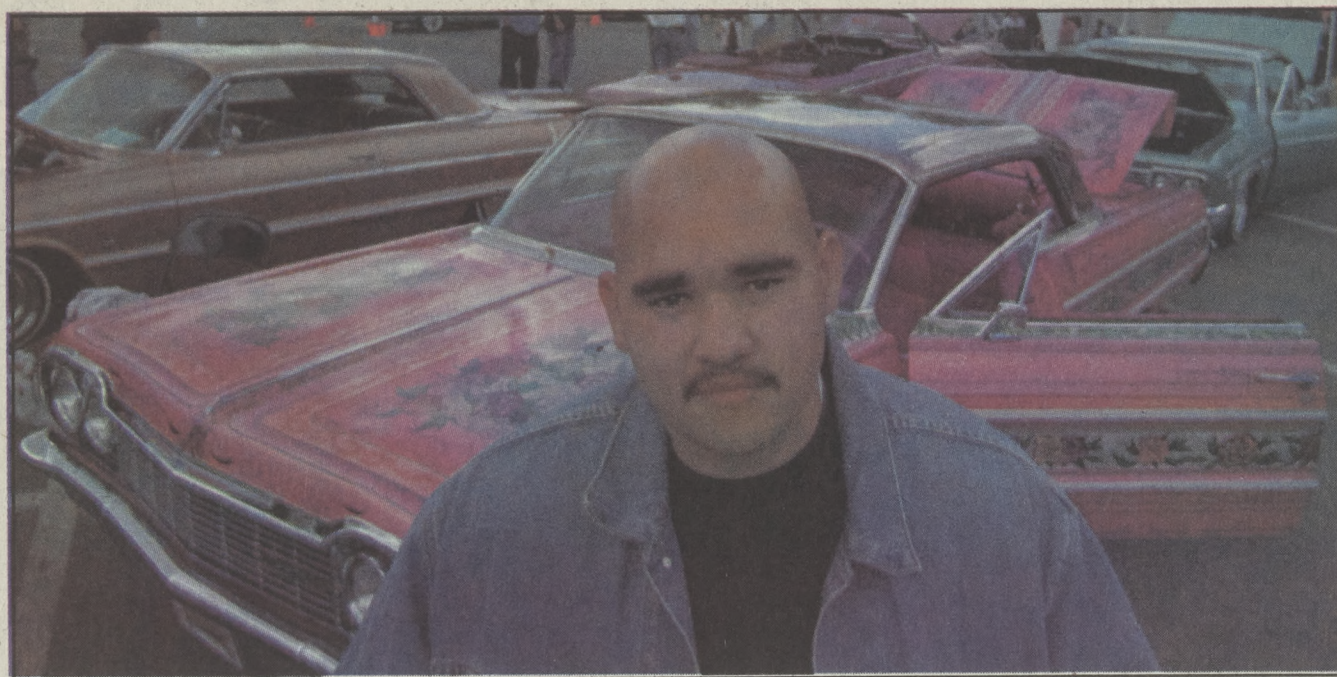
NHL

The Anaheim Mighty Ducks advanced to their first Conference Finals after an improbable 4-2 series win over the top-seeded Dallas Stars. A goal by Sandis Ozolinsh with 1:06 left in game six sealed the victory and the series for the Ducks.

MLB

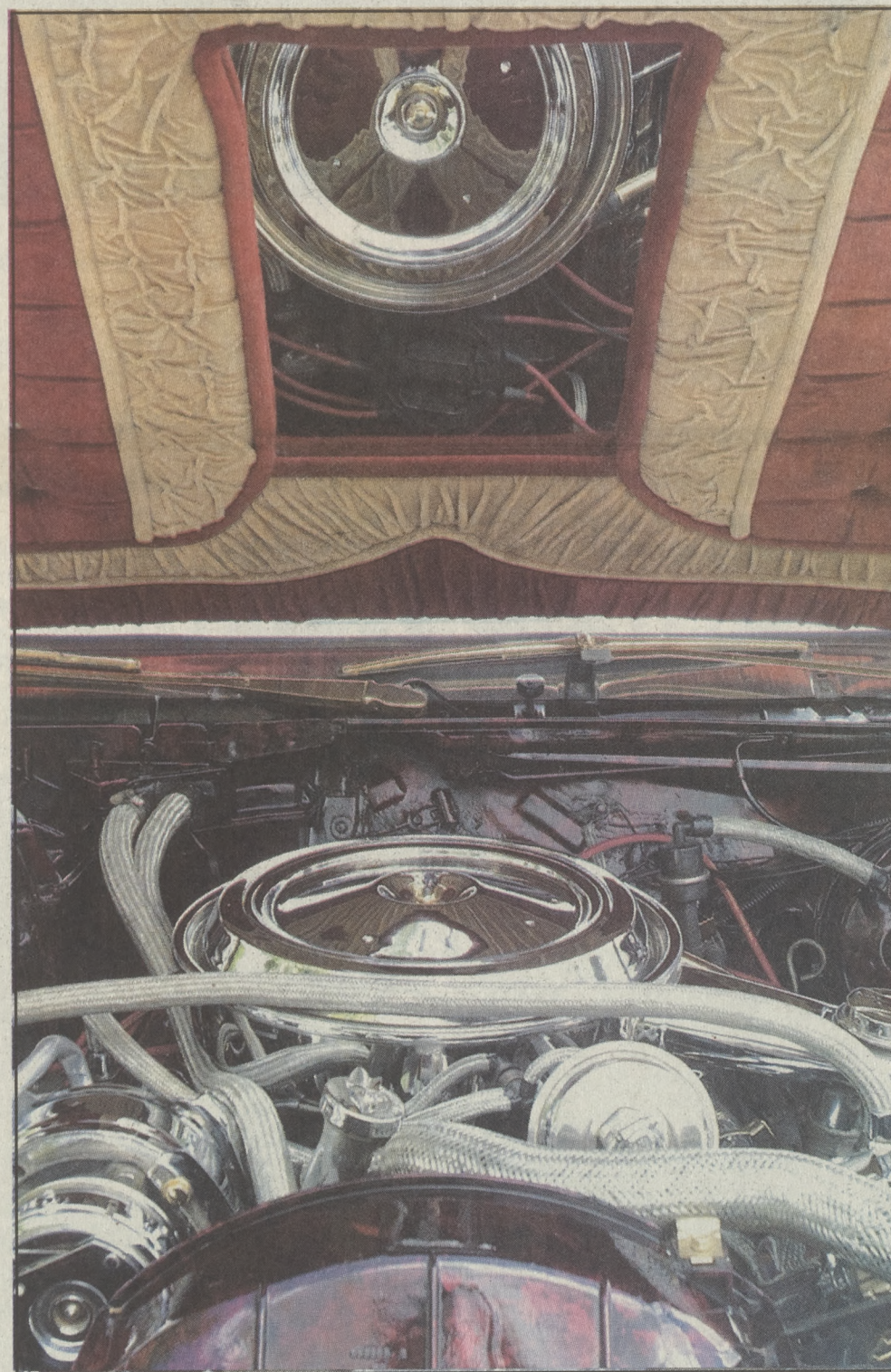
Four time National League Cy Young award winner Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks underwent successful arthroscopic knee surgery and will miss three to six weeks.

GALLERY



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

Low...ri...der



Car enthusiasts from all over Southern California gathered in Parking Lot B at Valley College Sunday for the First Annual Lowrider Car Show. Organized by M.E.Ch.A. and the broadcasting Club in conjunction with the Techniques Car Club, the show featured cars new and old, pickup trucks, SUVs and bicycles. Prizes were awarded for best paint job, best custom 1960s car, best truck, among others. Best in show went to a metallic purple 1965 Chevrolet Impala.

Clockwise from top left: cleaned and ready for judging, a car waits in the Sunday sun; M.E.Ch.A. President and organizer of the lowrider car show Erick Iniguez stands in front of "Gypsy Rose"; an engine is reflected in a mirror placed inside the hood of a car; Peter Cruz (left), of Techniques, Los Angeles, and Taka Shima (right), of Techniques, Japan, judge a car painted gold with mirrors and disco balls lined throughout the interior; Alejandra Lomeli applies makeup inside a truck before the Techniques Car Club judges scrutinize it.

PHOTOS, TEXT AND LAYOUT BY BENJAMIN FAVELA

